

To: CN=Marianne Holsman/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
Cc: "Dennis McLerran" [McLerran.Dennis@epamail.epa.gov]; N=Palmer Hough/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Phil North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Michael Szerlog/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Phil North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Michael Szerlog/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Michael Szerlog/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
From: CN=Richard Parkin/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Tue 2/8/2011 5:32:26 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: EPA plans scientific assessment of Bristol Bay watershed

Hi everyone: Suggest something like:

We do not know at this point who will be involved in the Peer Review. We will follow the EPA Peer Review Guidance. We will also involve Federal, State and Tribal experts in development of the Watershed Assessment. We will decide on a Peer Review Strategy in the next couple weeks as we finalize the process for moving forward on the Watershed Assessment.

Others please weigh in.

Rick Parkin
U.S. EPA, Region 10
(206) 553-8574

From: Marianne Holsman/R10/USEPA/US
To: "Richard Parkin" <Parkin.Richard@epamail.epa.gov>, "Dennis McLerran" <McLerran.Dennis@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: 02/08/2011 06:08 AM
Subject: Fw: EPA plans scientific assessment of Bristol Bay watershed

Hi. This is from Murkowski's staff. Rick, can you call me or email w/suggested language? Or I can call Phil.
Marianne Holsman

----- Original Message -----

From: "Fuglvog, Arne (Murkowski)" [Arne_Fuglvog@murkowski.senate.gov]
Sent: 02/08/2011 08:52 AM EST
To: Marianne Holsman
Subject: RE: EPA plans scientific assessment of Bristol Bay watershed

Marianne,

Thank you. Who will do the peer review of the watershed assessment? If you don't know now, when will you decide? CIE? NAS?

Regards,

Arne

-----Original Message-----

From: Holsman.Marianne@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Holsman.Marianne@epamail.epa.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 8:37 PM
To: Fuglvog, Arne (Murkowski)
Subject: RE: EPA plans scientific assessment of Bristol Bay watershed

(See attached file: Outline for Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment.pdf)

Marianne Holsman
Public Affairs Director
US EPA Region 10
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
desk: 206.553.1237 cell: 206.450.5895
Email: holsman.marianne@epa.gov

From: "Fuglvog, Arne (Murkowski)"
<Arne_Fuglvog@murkowski.senate.gov>
To: Marianne Holsman/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/07/2011 02:28 PM
Subject: RE: EPA plans scientific assessment of Bristol Bay watershed

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: Holsman.Marianne@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Holsman.Marianne@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 4:44 PM
To: Fuglvog, Arne (Murkowski)
Subject: RE: EPA plans scientific assessment of Bristol Bay watershed

Hi Arne:

Just a little later today, we'll be able to send you an outline of the public process.

Thanks.

Marianne Holsman
Public Affairs Director
US EPA Region 10
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
desk: 206.553.1237 cell: 206.450.5895
Email: holsman.marianne@epa.gov

From: "Fuglvog, Arne (Murkowski)"
<Arne_Fuglvog@murkowski.senate.gov>
To: Cindy Schuster/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Marianne Holsman/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/07/2011 01:39 PM
Subject: RE: EPA plans scientific assessment of Bristol Bay

watershed

Cindy,

Thanks for the update. Can you send me the scope of the study including:

- 1) the peer review process?
 - 2) the studies and agencies that will provide them?
 - 3) public hearings?
 - 4) consultation with State of Alaska?
 - 5) How you will use the pebble partnerships baseline environmental studies?
 - 6) how will use the independent environmental studies?
 - 7) what other information will you use?
- 8) I will have more questions to follow...

And just as a note- there are actually a number of regions in Alaska where the salmon runs are at or above historical levels- SE Alaska averages around 42 million fish per year and 10 of the highest harvests in the last 50 years have occurred in the last 15 years; Kodiak averages 20 million fish per year and has had historically high years in the past two decades; these are just two areas and there are over a dozen other salmon fishing areas in the State to compare historical levels with present day abundance.

It isn't accurate to say that Bristol Bay may be the last major watershed in North America that produces historic numbers of wild salmon. ADF&G has 50 years of data on all the salmon runs in the State of Alaska and can provide you with the historical information.

The problem with making that statement is that those of us who know fisheries, like I do, know that EPA is not the expert on fisheries.

USFWS or any other federal agency are not the experts either. In fact, the State of Alaska has successfully managed salmon fisheries in Alaska since the 1950's and they are the experts. I would recommend you talk to them before you do anything else regarding the salmon fisheries in Bristol Bay.

-----Original Message-----

From: Schuster.Cindy@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Schuster.Cindy@epamail.epa.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:40 PM

To: Johnson, Michael (Begich); Fleek, Susanne (Begich); Fuglvog, Arne (Murkowski); Edwards, Sherry (Murkowski); Chad.Padgett@mail.house.gov; Caminos, Nate (Cantwell); Babb, Sheila (Murray); Sharmila.Swenson@mail.house.gov

Subject: EPA plans scientific assessment of Bristol Bay watershed

This morning EPA Region 10 announced that the agency will conduct a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed.

With my regards,

Cindy Colgate Schuster
Congressional Coordinator
International Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 10
206/553-1815

(Embedded image moved to file: pic26857.jpg)

EPA plans scientific assessment of Bristol Bay watershed

Assessment responds to concerns of tribes, businesses, and others about development proposals

Contact: Marianne Holsman, EPA Public Affairs, 206-553-1237, holsman.marianne@epa.gov

(Anchorage, Alaska—Feb. 7, 2011) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will conduct a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed to better understand how future large-scale development projects may affect water quality and Bristol Bay's salmon fishery, an extraordinary salmon resource for the United States. EPA initiated this assessment in response to concerns from federally-recognized tribes and others who petitioned the agency in 2010 to assess any potential risks to the watershed.

"The Bristol Bay watershed is essential to the health, environment and economy of Alaska," said EPA Regional Administrator Dennis McLerran.

"Gathering data and getting public input now, before development occurs, just makes sense. Doing this we can be assured that our future decisions are grounded in the best science and information and in touch with the needs of these communities. We look forward to working with Alaskans to protect and preserve this valuable resource."

In 2010, nine federally-recognized Bristol Bay tribes petitioned EPA to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to protect Bristol Bay.

Their concerns focused on the potential Pebble Mine project. Two other tribes asked EPA to wait for mining projects to submit permit applications before taking action.

This action today does not represent any regulatory decision by the agency; instead it represents EPA's proactive steps to better understand the watershed and gather important scientific information. This information gathered will inform any future guidelines or actions about how to protect the waters and promote sustainable development.

Bristol Bay is an important source of wild Pacific salmon for commercial, recreational, and subsistence users. It produces hundreds of millions of dollars in annual fisheries revenues. The area may be the last major watershed in North America that produces historic numbers of wild salmon. Most of the Bristol Bay watershed is wildlife refuge or park where large development is restricted. EPA's efforts will focus on those areas that are not protected.

EPA's assessment is not limited to examining the effects of hard-rock mining projects, but will consider the effects of large-scale development in general.

The assessment, which will focus primarily on the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds, will be informed by scientific peer review, tribal consultation, federal and state agency participation, as well as public and industry input.

EPA will accept and consider public input during development of the watershed assessment and will continue to work closely with tribal governments, state and federal agencies as we undertake this analysis.

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Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98101 United States